

# **Workforce Partnership of Greater Rhode Island**

## **Strategic Development Committee Minutes**

**November 21, 2008**

**Present:** Paul Harden, Everett Amaral, Susan O'Donnell, Fred Ricci, Bob Cooper, and Kim Weiss. **Guests and staff:** Mavis McGetrick, Jen Cornwell, Christine Grieco, and Gail DuPont.

**Absent:** Jane Nugent, Betty Pleacher, and Allen Durand.

**With a quorum present, Chair Paul Harden called the meeting to order at approximately 8:35 a.m.**

**Paul Harden introduced Susan McKenna from My Turn, one of the ISDI partners, who made a brief presentation to the committee. Susan explained that My Turn is an organization that works with employers, educational institutions, community agencies and families to provide education, work-based learning opportunities and jobs for youth ages 14 to 21 years of age. A skills gap analysis of the marine trades in Rhode Island conducted by My Turn revealed a deficit in technical skills, worker shortages, and lack of soft skills as barriers to the available labor pool. My Turn goals are to expand employer involvement with skills training to match industry needs. Susan promised to keep the committee informed of the program's progress.**

**VOTE: Chair Paul Harden asked everyone to review the minutes of the September 19, 2008 meeting. Bob Cooper moved to accept the minutes as written. Fred Ricci seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

**The minutes of the meeting on October 17, 2008 were reviewed. As a quorum was not present at the meeting, therefore minutes were not required.**

#### **WIA 2 Year Modification 4:**

**Chris Grieco explained this modification is for the period of July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. The purpose of this Modification is to provide new funding levels for Adult, Youth and Dislocated Worker Programs, new policies approved by the WPGRI Board, and outline partnerships with Rhode Island high-growth industries. She referred everyone to page five of the modification to review the funding allocations prepared by Bob Garafano who is on loan to WPGRI from SWIO (State Workforce Investment Office). The policy changes refer to raising the cap to \$5,500 for ITA-funded programs.**

**The third component refers to the ISDI (Industry Skills Development Initiative), Customized Training services and (OJT) On-The-Job Training programs.**

**Chris referred to the draft of the OJT Training Program Model included in the packets. The draft was approved by the committee previously but now has been updated to reflect a more generic**

**guideline as follows: “When possible, the OJT curriculum should be certified by Industry Partnerships identified by the GWB or the RIEDC as one that meets the needs of the local employers and appropriate to the skills necessary for the industry/occupation to remain competitive and successful in the RI economy.”**

**ADDENDUM VOTE: Paul Harden motioned to approve the draft outline guidelines for the OJT program, as an addendum the modification. Susan O'Donnell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

**The change from Modification 3 is WIA Sec.134(d)(4)(G) reflecting OJTs and Customized Training program options to expand employment opportunities. Both service options will expand employer participation in the training development and delivery process. These options are expected to support and enhance WIA performance.**

**VOTE: Bob Cooper moved to approve the WIA 2 Year Modification 4. Paul Harden seconded. The motion passed unanimously and will be referred to the Executive Committee and then to the full board.**

**ISDI Commitment of Funds:**

**Jen Cornwell will present a report to the Governors Workforce Board highlighting a number of performance goals that were met and requesting the commitment of \$2,997,800 in funds for the third year of**

ISDI program. Christine said an RFP will be ready in February or March for funding July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010. Jen said bids have been received ranging from \$75,000 to \$7,600 for the Career Awareness Video. She is exploring a lower-cost option with the Met School pending production quality. Jen is also working on policy and procedures of the training component which should be in place by January 1st pending adaptability of the Tech Collective program. The partners' presence in the One-Stop Centers is proving successful.

#### **New Business:**

Paul Harden asked if the number of people accessing ITAs were increasing. Kim Weiss explained that people are reluctant to go into training at this time as they are focused on immediate re-employment, plus many are not in a position to enter programs that exceed the cap of \$5,500. Kim asked if the Supportive Services policy, which reimburses individuals after completion of training, could be reviewed to afford people an opportunity to access those funds up front in order to get into a training program. Paul agreed that the committee would discuss increasing the ITA cap and review the supportive services policy at the January meeting.

**VOTE:** Kim Weiss motioned to adjourn the meeting. Fred Ricci seconded. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:15 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2009.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
**Gail DuPont**  
**Administrative Assistant**